



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

AT

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/840,482	04/23/01	VO	HE0146

021495
CORNING CABLE SYSTEMS LLC
P O BOX 489
HICKORY NC 28603

MMC2/0801

EXAMINER

LE, T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 08/01/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/840,482

Applicant(s)

VO ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T Le

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-10 and 12-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham et al. (5,297,199) in view of Waas (6,188,560 B1).

Graham et al., figures 6 and 9, disclose a wire termination device for providing a demarcation with subscriber lines (12) comprising a base (16) having a plurality of subscriber terminals (30, 31) and a telephone jack (40) with tip and ring contacts (43, 44), a moveable cover (24) associated with the base to be selectively closed thereon, a plug assembly on the cover having a prong portion that is disposed within the jack when the cover is closed onto the base, a conductive contact (70, 71) provided on the cover. The conductive contact having a portion that electrically connects with the jack contacts when the cover is closed.

Graham et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for the conductive contact also being accessible from the exterior of the cover for providing a test contact against which a test probe.

Wass, figure 5, discloses a multi-wire terminal block having a cover (106) is provided external test contact element (112). The external test contact element is established as a raised portion of the of the protection contact element (102) adapted to

Art Unit: 2839

receive a test probe (see Wass, column 11). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have for the conductive contact also being accessible from the exterior of the cover for providing the test contact against which the test probe as suggested by Wass, in order to provided convenient electrical connections between telephone customer service wires (see Wass, column 1, lines 19-22).

Regarding claims 2 and 3, it is noted that Wass, figures 5 and 6, discloses the conductive contact is recessed within a cavity disposed on a forward portion of the cover. The cavity has an opening at an upper surface of the cavity for accessing the test contact.

Regarding claims 4-6, 8-10 and 12, the combination of Graham et al. and Waas disclose a metallic strip disposed along a side of the prong portion and having an outwardly biased portion. Wherein the jack has a conductive member on a lateral sidewall that is engaged by the metallic strip when the cover is closed. The conductive member being electrically connected to the jack contact.

Regarding claim 15, it is noted Waas, figure 5, discloses a pair of test probe access holes in the cover to permit the test probe to contact each test contact.

3. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham et al. and Waas as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Chalmers (4,201,432).

The combination of Graham et al. and Waas disclose the instant claimed invention except for a flexible metallic strip.

Chalmers, figure 4, discloses an electrical connector having a resilient contact arm (34) which is read as a flexible metallic strip. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the flexible metallic strip as suggested by Chalmers, in order to reflect in the same direction on insertion (see Chalmers, column 1, lines 29-37).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ruehl et al. disclose an in-line switched telephone line tester, Collins et al. disclose an individual subscriber line module, Michelson et al. disclose a protected telephone network interface device, Butler, III et al. disclose a telephone interface security lock, Daoud et al. disclose a multiple level network interface device and Daoud discloses a network interface device test access with cross-connect feature.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam Le (Tammy) whose telephone number is (703) 306-5711. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus, can be reached on (703) 308-3119. The fax phone numbers

Application/Control Number: 09/840,482


Page 5

Art Unit: 2839

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

Thanh-Tam Le
Examiner, AU 2839
7/27/01


Kheim Nguyen
Primary Examiner